

## **Abstract**

The aim of the thesis "Voluntary abstinence in connection with the influence of the social environment" is to study the motivations of late adolescents that lead to refuse alcohol consumption. The work is also focused on the perceived role of social environment in this type of abstinence. Background consists of texts relating to the conformity and the influence of social environment, research and statistics that demonstrate the atmosphere of the environment in which the volunteer drinkers live. The research is based on interviews with eight college students who were interviewed using semi-structured interview method. The interviews are focused on how informants perceived attitudes towards alcohol consumption in their family, among their peers and friends, as well on what impression they have of the society's attitude to alcohol. Part of the dialogue is also the voluntary abstainers' point of view on how the social environment reflects them. Last but not least are mentioned the reasons for abstinence. The analysis has revealed that respondents do not consider their family to have a direct influence on their abstinence. Family members do help to construct a structure of what can be considered as normal in the alcohol consumption. Consequently, the informants have very skeptical attitude towards current society's drinking habits. The negative effects of alcohol consumption are also the main reason for their abstinence. Respondents perceived changes of peer pressure during primary and secondary schools. They had to create strategies to avoid drinking alcohol. These procedures are used to this day, especially in front of new people, but in many cases also with family members and close friends. Informants' presents their abstinence as a uniqueness accompanied by a good feeling of not drinking.